



RECEIVED  
AUG 21 2000

PATENT  
P-4579

RECEIVED  
AUG 21 2000

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT(S): Dolores M. Berger et al.

SERIAL NO.: 09/395,677

GROUP: 1655

FILING DATE: September 10, 1999

EXAMINER: B. Forman

FOR: Method For Providing Long-Term Stability To Cells For Diagnostic Testing

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231	
ON: <u>August 10, 2000</u>	(DATE OF DEPOSIT)
BY: <u>Bruce S. Weintraub</u>	(NAME)
<u>B.S. Weintraub</u>	(SIGNATURE)
<u>8/10/00</u>	(DATE)

Sir:

**AMENDMENT**

In response to the Official Action of April 13, 2000, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the following claims.

1. (Amended) A method for stabilizing the structure and nucleic acids of at least one cell in a sample, wherein said method comprises:
- (a) adding to a vessel containing the sample, a composition comprising [an effective concentration of] a substance [capable of] having a concentration effective for precipitating or denaturing proteins and [capable of] effective for